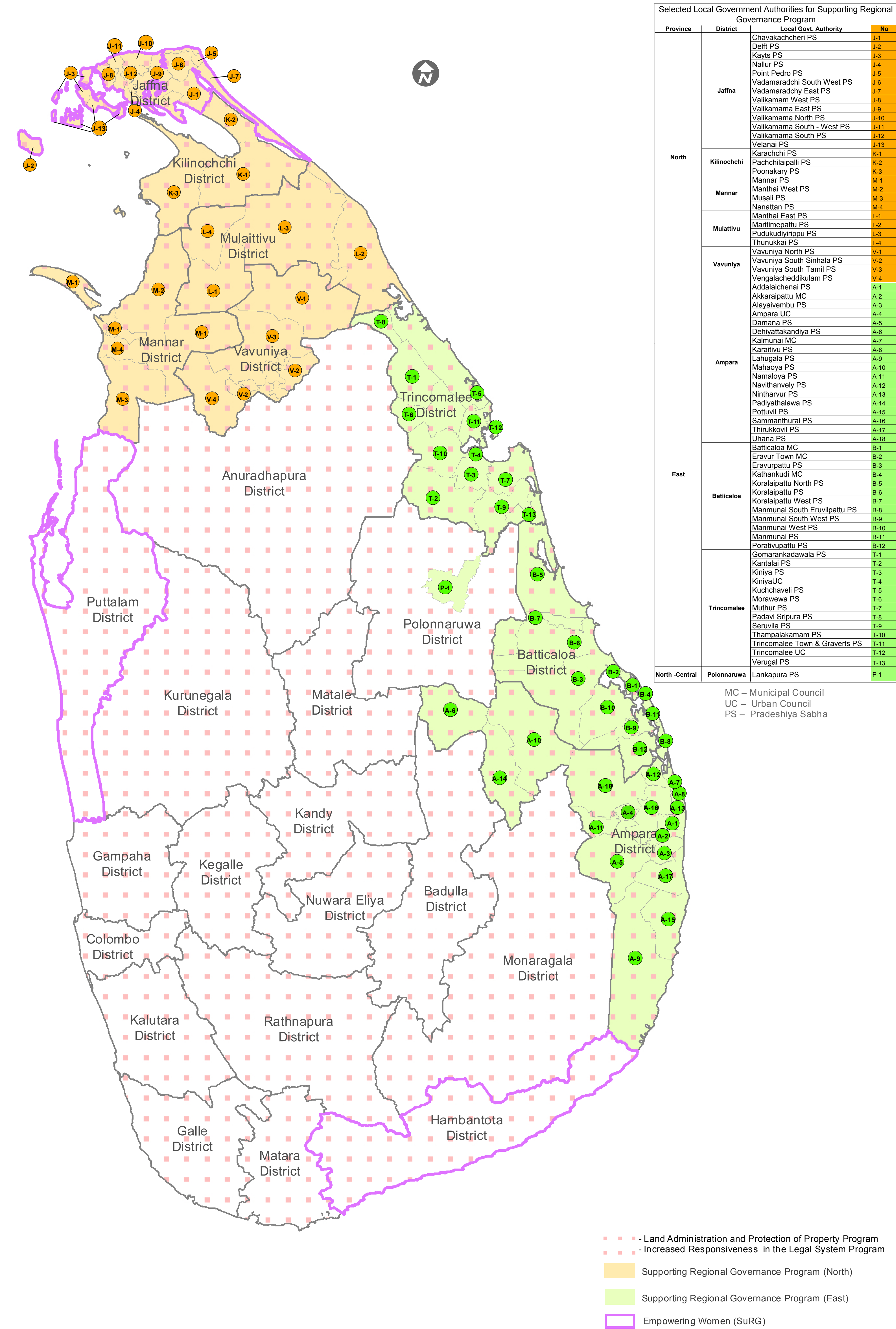


USAID/Sri Lanka – Democracy and Governance Programs

August 2011



As Sri Lanka moves from relief to development, USAID’s democracy and governance programs support the creation of a stable, equitable society where all citizens enjoy the benefits of rapid post-war economic growth. DG programs work with Government of Sri Lanka and civil society partners to address several key issues important for long-term development: institutions and the strength of the legal system.

Building Institutions by Partnering with Local Government and Civil Society

USAID’s Supporting Regional Governance Program (SuRG) seeks to re-establish civic institutions in the country’s Northern and Eastern provinces. By working with local government officials, religious leaders, journalists, and women’s groups, SuRG supports efforts to stitch the fabric of society back together following decades of conflict.

Key program goals include providing access to services and promoting social integration between all religious and ethnic groups. Recently, SuRG provided training on participatory planning and financial management to 43 local authorities in the East. As a result, these local authorities’ offices were awarded World Bank grants to conduct development projects. SuRG also provides training on gender-based violence for government officials, service providers, Court Family Counselors and community members. To promote social integration, SuRG provides training to 80 religious leaders from different faiths to establish a network for social harmony. The program also works with Women’s Rural Development Societies and female entrepreneurs.

Increasing Legal System Capacity by Training Judges and Supporting Policy Reform

USAID’s Increased Responsiveness in the Legal System Program seeks to support the government to develop policies, procedures and legal reforms necessary to provide effective, timely justice for citizens. This program will build the institutional capacity of the Judges Training Institute by supporting a mentoring relationship with an overseas judicial college to design a comprehensive training curriculum for newly-appointed judges, and provide technical and language training for court administrators. Additionally, the program will provide support for case management activities.



Ms. Valerie Fowler, US Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, awards a diploma to SuRG journalism scholar Ms. K. Mala.



USAID funding is providing training and technical assistance to local authorities in the East.



Buddhist nuns participate in Dialogue Forums organized by the Social Scientists' Association.



Lawyers from the North present their cases to a judge during a mock trial exercise.